



# WES INFO BULLETIN

## NATIONAL ACTIVITY

### “POLICY SUPPORT TO ADDRESS SINGLE-USE PLASTIC ITEMS IN LEBANON”

December 2023

## Overview

**From March 2021 to September 2023, the ‘Water and Environment Support (WES) in the ENI Southern Neighborhood region’ Project prepared and delivered a national activity in Lebanon which is to contribute to the gradual phasing out of single use plastic (SUP) items, by taking into account the environmental aspects but also the technical and industrial challenges of the plastic industries.**

This technical assistance mission would start with the analysis of the single-use plastics ‘scene’ in the country (data analysis/database, sector assessment, technical measures accompanying the conversion of plastic manufacturers, cost benefit analysis for the phasing out of plastic, etc.), leading to proposing concrete actions (i.e. legal texts or policy action plans) for the progressive phasing out of SUPs, and finalizing, with the provision of evidence based advice, a nationwide strategy for reducing and eventually banning production and/or use of certain single-use plastic items in the country.

**The Ministry of the Environment (MoE) and the Ministry of Industry (Moi) of Lebanon supported the implementation of this WES national activity.**

## Methodology and Implementation

The activities were progressively implemented following a logical approach from analysis to planning in relation to tackling selected SUPs in Lebanon.

- Kick-off meeting, 17/03/2022 (online): Presentation of the overall activity
- Inception meeting, 04/05/2022 (online) – Task 1: Proposal and selection of targeted SUP items, high level discussion on current status and related initiatives
- Baseline situation (production and consumption) for the selected SUP items in Lebanon, Nov. 2022 – Tasks 2 & 3: The report also provides the situation on alternatives in the country, potential policy measures to reduce SUPs, as well as their potential impact.
- Consultation workshop, 17/11/2022 – Task 3: Jointly organised with the Marine Litter Med II project, the workshop reviewed and discussed the baseline report and participants voiced their views on the presented potential policy measures.
- Roadmap to address SUPs in Lebanon, March 2023 – Task 4: The roadmap provides details on the selected measures taking account of the consultation process (see below).
- Consultation meetings to validate the results so far and the way forward for the reduction of SUPs in Lebanon and support the MoE in the development of a Voluntary Agreement to tackle SUPs (Tasks 4 & 5): Indeed, the Ministry was supported to develop the first measure, the Voluntary Agreement. For that, the scope and text was proposed, and meetings were held with key stakeholders to promote buy-in. By the closure of the activity, both the Ministry of Environment and the Syndicate of Restaurants expressed their will to move forward and sign the agreement later in 2023.

## Main Outcomes

The following are considered as main outputs:

- ✓ Baseline report on selected SUPs in Lebanon
- ✓ Roadmap to address SUPs
- ✓ Final draft Voluntary Agreement between the Ministry of Environment and the Syndicate of Restaurants.

Last but not least, one should acknowledge the importance of raising awareness, building capacity and promotion of action in relation to on-the-go SUPs through the implementation of this activity in Lebanon. This shall result in further actions in the near future to crystallise the Voluntary Agreement and other measures.

## Conclusions

**The activity successfully met its objectives and was smoothly implemented in Lebanon, allowing for a detailed roadmap on the actions to tackle on-the-go SUPs, mostly related to the hotel, restaurant and cafe sector.**

**Private stakeholders have shown interest in taking voluntary action towards the reduction of SUPs, mostly driven by economic savings and consumers' perception.**

Next steps shall include the formalisation of the Voluntary Agreement through promotion and eventual signature by specific businesses, who would benefit from expert follow up to assess their consumption of SUPs and guide them toward tailored sustainable alternatives.



### Useful Link

[https://www.wes-med.eu/activities\\_type/n-e-lb-2b-policy-support-to-address-single-use-plastic-items-in-lebanon/](https://www.wes-med.eu/activities_type/n-e-lb-2b-policy-support-to-address-single-use-plastic-items-in-lebanon/)

## WES Project

The EU funded Water and Environment Support (WES) is a regional project designed to contribute to the implementation of an integrated approach to pollution reduction and prevention, in line with the Union for the Mediterranean agendas and the Barcelona Convention. WES is also meant to contribute to a more efficient management of scarce water resources in the ENI Southern Neighbourhood region.

The project aims to do so by increasing the capacity of stakeholders that are involved in pollution reduction and water management and support them in formulating and implementing the environmental and water policies.

WES supports the shift to a more sustainable consumption and production model, promotes an integrated and efficient management of water, combats plastic pollution and marine litter and fosters dialogue on key environmental and sustainable development issues. In this way, WES also supports mutual understanding, cooperation, and peace in the region.

For any further information on WES project, please visit: [www.wes-med.eu](http://www.wes-med.eu)

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